

From: Jay Olson
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: The Microsoft hegemony

The recent settlement for Microsoft which includes the contribution of one billion dollars worth of software, services, and cash to the 12,500 poorest schools in the nation is a paradox.

As you know, MS is on trial for anti-competitive practices. Well, punishing MS by forcing them to further inundate the educational community with MS software and services is, in itself, an anti-competitive practice. So the punishment for MS is to force them to further indulge in their crime? As you know, forcing them to distribute their software and services will only make those recipient schools dependent on MS in the future, while increasing the market penetration and mind share of Microsoft products. Perhaps you could force them to buy iMacs for those schools and provide a lifetime free license of MS Office on each of those iMacs, now that would be poetic justice. It would force MS to support the competition in the OS arena, while furthering their market penetration in the Office arena, but only by giving away their biggest cash cow for free!

This makes no sense to me, as I understand it makes no sense to you. I am writing to encourage you to continue in your efforts to reach a fair conclusion to this situation. Let this trial set a precedent for the future. Let the rich of the world know that our government is not for sale.

You have my support.

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